

## Message Text

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70

ORIGIN COME-00

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ISO-00 EB-11 XMB-07 OPIC-12 EUR-25 L-03

DOTE-00 TRSE-00 FRB-03 CIEP-03 CIAE-00 INR-11 NSAE-00

RSC-01 INRE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00 /087 R

66613

DRAFTED BY: COM/BIC/MEPD/SCONGER/DOT/FRA/WEDSON

APPROVED BY: EB/OCA/REP:GPWILSON

COM/BIC/OED/MEPD/JSANDS, DIR.

STATE/AF/C/JHDIGGS

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE IMMEDIATE

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: BEXP BG

SUBJ: TRANSGABON RAILROAD -- GENERAL ELECTRIC BID ON LOCOMOTIVES

REF: A) STATE 202482 (PARA 6) B) LIBREVILLE 1110

1. FRA ENGINEER EDSON, AT COMMERCE REQUEST, COMPLETED REVIEW SPECIFICATIONS GENERAL ELECTRIC, ALSTHOM, MTE/FRANCORAIL PROPOSALS SUBMITTED MRCE JULY. HE DISCUSSED WITH GE HIS FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS ADDITIONAL REPRESENTATIONS TO OCTRA SPECIFIED PARA 2, BELOW.

2. UNLESS EMBASSY PERCEIVES SUBSTANTIVE OR TACTICAL PROBLEMS, IT IS REQUESTED TO NOTIFY MASSON ASAP THAT USG BELIEVES THERE ARE AT LEAST FIVE FEATURES OF GENERAL ELECTRIC DESIGN THAT PROVIDE IMPORTANT ADVANTAGES OVER THE TWO OTHER DESIGNS BEING CONSIDERED:

(A) ALL-DIRECT-CURRENT ELECTRICAL SYSTEM USED FOR  
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GENERAL ELECTRIC DESIGN IS RUGGED, AND DOES NOT REQUIRE

SOPHISTICATED ELECTRONIC CONTROL ELEMENTS WHICH ARE EXPENSIVE TO PURCHASE, REPAIR AND REPLACE.

(B) SIX-AXLE, SIX-MOTOR ARRANGEMENT OFFERS VERY SIGNIFICANT BENEFITS. DISTRIBUTION OF POWER TO SIX TRACTION MOTORS INSTEAD OF FOUR REDUCES POSSIBILITY OF OVERHEATING, AND AT SAME TIME PROVIDES HIGHER CONTINUOUS TRACTIVE EFFORT (EFFORT CONTINU DE TRACTION) RATING. BECAUSE OF LONGER TRUCK WHEEL BASE, WEIGHT TRANSFER BETWEEN AXLES IS REDUCED AT HIGHER TRACTIVE EFFORT LEVELS. IF DESIRED IN FUTURE, IT WILL BE POSSIBLE TO ADD CONSIDERABLE BALLAST TO FURTHER INCREASE HAULING CAPABILITY ON GRADES WITHOUT EXCEEDING AXLE LOAD LIMITS. SIX-MOTOR ARRANGEMENT ALSO PERMITS DISCONNECTING TRACTION MOTORS IN PAIRS, IF NECESSARY.

(C) ANOTHER ADVANTAGEOUS FEATURE PECULIAR TO GENERAL ELECTRIC DESIGN IS DIRECT-DRIVE RADIATOR FAN ARRANGEMENT, WHICH OFFERS SIMPLICITY AND LESS TRANSMISSION LOSS THAN AN ELECTRIC DRIVE ARRANGEMENT.

(D) GE PROPOSAL SPECIFIES ELECTRIC STARTING, USING BATTERY POWER TO ENERGIZE SPECIAL WINDINGS IN MAIN GENERATOR. THIS ARRANGEMENT AVOIDS NEED FOR LARGE MAIN AIR RESERVOIR AND PROVIDES AMPLE CAPACITY FOR REPEATED ENGINE STARTING.

(E) OVER 300 GENERAL ELECTRIC DIESEL LOCOMOTIVE UNITS OF THIS GENERAL DESIGN ARE IN SERVICE IN AFRICA, ALL WITH SAME ENGINE, MAIN GENERATOR, AND TRACTION MOTORS. REPORTS ON THESE LOCOMOTIVES INDICATE THEY ARE EXCEPTIONALLY DEPENDABLE AND REQUIRE LITTLE MAINTENANCE, LARGELY BECAUSE THEIR DESIGN IS RELATIVELY SIMPLE AND EASILY UNDERSTOOD.

3. IN LIGHT UNLIKELYHOOD SECOND MRCE MEETING, (REF B), COMMERCE HAS DEFERRED PLANS SEND EDSON LIBREVILLE. HOWEVER, HE WILL BE AVAILABLE IF GABONESE DECIDE RECONVENE MRCE AND EMBASSY FEELS U.S. TECHNICAL REPRESENTATIVE NECESSARY. EMBASSY REQUESTED PROVIDE CURRENT ASSESSMENT PROBABILITY SECOND MRCE MEETING. KISSINGER  
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## Message Attributes

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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
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**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
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**TAGS:** BEXP, BG  
**To:** LIBREVILLE  
**Type:** TE  
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